

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Order Instituting Rulemaking on the  
Commission's Own Motion into Competition for  
Local Exchange Service.

Rulemaking 95-04-043  
(Filed April 26, 1995)

Order Instituting Investigation on the  
Commission's Own Motion into Competition for  
Local Exchange Service.

Investigation 95-04-044  
(Filed April 26, 1995)

**ASSIGNED COMMISSIONER'S RULING  
SOLICITING COMMENTS ON MODIFICATION**

This ruling is issued to provide notice and opportunity for parties to comment concerning the potential modification in the Commission's adopted treatment of wireless carriers' assigned area code in connection with the implementation of area code changes.

Traditionally, the Commission has approved area code splits that include a "grandfather" provision for wireless carriers whereby wireless carriers are permitted to retain their preexisting area code assignment after a geographic split, even when the rate center of the carriers' assigned NXX code lies within the geographic boundaries prescribed for the new area code. The Commission expressly adopted this provision in Decision (D.) 96-08-028 (Conclusion of Law 23) as a means of relieving the burden on customers of such carriers who would otherwise have to bring their handset equipment to the carrier for

reprogramming, or else reprogram the equipment, themselves to recognize the change in area code.

By this ruling, parties are provided notice and opportunity to comment on potential modification of this policy. Modification is being considered in view of the need to promote the efficient utilization and conservation of numbering resources, particularly in those area codes whose numbering resources are closer to exhaustion. Accordingly, this ruling solicits comments on the impacts of changing the Commission's policy of grandfathering the wireless carriers' retention of the original area code in conjunction with an area code split. In particular, parties are provided the opportunity to comment on the impacts of a proposed change to end the grandfathering provision for wireless carriers. Wireless, like wireline, customers would be required to take the new area code if their number was assigned in a rate center that was located within the geographic boundaries of the new area code. Customers of wireless carriers would therefore be required to have their equipment reprogrammed to recognize the new area code, and would receive incoming calls through the new area code.

Comments are therefore solicited concerning all relevant impacts that the Commission should take into account in considering whether to revise its previous policy concerning the grandfathering of wireless carriers in connection with area code changes. These impacts include the effects on customers, competitive parity among carriers, and the numbering resource conservation and efficiency. This ruling constitutes notice and opportunity to be heard under Public Utilities Code Section 1708. Upon receipt and review of the filed comments, the Commission may then determine whether to terminate its policy adopted in D.96-08-028 regarding grandfathering of area codes for wireless carriers.

**IT IS RULED** that:

1. Comments are solicited regarding the potential rule change in the policy previously adopted in Decision 96-08-028 relating to the grandfather provision granted to wireless carriers in conjunction with an area code change plan.
2. Opening comments are due on June 10 and reply comments are due on June 17, 2002.

Dated May 30, 2002, at San Francisco, California.

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/s/ Loretta M. Lynch  
Loretta M. Lynch  
Assigned Commissioner

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that I have by mail this day served a true copy of the original attached Assigned Commissioner's Ruling Soliciting Comments on Modification on all parties of record in this proceeding or their attorneys of record.

Dated May 30, 2002, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ Antonina V. Swansen  
Antonina V. Swansen

**N O T I C E**

Parties should notify the Process Office, Public Utilities Commission, 505 Van Ness Avenue, Room 2000, San Francisco, CA 94102, of any change of address to insure that they continue to receive documents. You must indicate the proceeding number on the service list on which your name appears.

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